

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 3, 6 – 10, and 38 – 41 remain in this application. Claims 4, 5, 11 – 14, and 16 – 37 have been withdrawn as a result of an earlier restriction requirement. In view of the examiner's earlier restriction requirement, applicant retains the right to present claims 4, 5, 11 – 14, and 16 – 37 in a divisional application.

§ 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Application No. 2002/0135728 (Tatsuta et al).

The Examiner asserts that Tatsuta discloses a display device including a display substrate of thin glass plate, non-alkali glass plate each of which is less than 1 mm in thickness on a plastic support substrate.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Examiner points to paragraphs 0004 and 0006 of Tatsuta as disclosing Applicant's invention. Paragraph 0004 discloses that glass plates may be used as display substrates in the manufacture of liquid crystal displays. Such glass substrates may be, for example, borosilicate glass, soda lime glass, and non-alkali glass. However, paragraph 0004 does not disclose, inter alia, a display substrate having a thickness less than or equal to 0.4 mm (where the display substrate is the substrate for receiving thin film transistors) and a support substrate removably attached to the display substrate.

Paragraph 0006 on the other hand follows from paragraph 0005 describing the use of plastic display substrates, which are less prone to breakage than glass, but have reduced gas barrier properties compared to glass (that is, hermeticity is a problem). Paragraph 0006 discusses ways of forming a gas barrier on a plastic display substrate. One method involves fixing a thin glass plate to the plastic display substrate as a gas barrier. However, paragraph 0006 does not disclose a display substrate having a thickness less than 0.4 mm thick, and a support substrate removably attached to the display substrate.

In both cases, Tatsuta fails to disclose each and every limitation of Applicants' claims 1. Applicants therefore contend that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima

facie case of anticipation, and that claim 2, which depends from claim 1, is also allowable.

§ 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 15 and 38-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over U.S. Application No. 2002/0135728 (Tatsuta et al) in light of U.S. Patent No. 4,925,708 (Waters et al).

The Examiner asserts that Tatsuta discloses but fails to explicitly show liquid crystal material disposed between first and second display substrate. Waters et al shows upper and lower boundary layers of 511 and 512 of transparent layer and liquid crystal material is disposed in between the two transparent layers.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. That Waters discloses a liquid crystal layer disposed between two substrates does not cure the deficiency of Tatsuta. Tatsuta does not disclose a display substrate having a thickness less than 0.4 mm, in the case of claim 1, or a pair of display substrates, as provided for in claim 38. Waters is silent as to the thickness of the display substrates. Applicants therefore contend that claims 1 and 38 are allowable, and that claims 2-3, 15 and claims 39-41 which depend from claims 1 and 38, respectively, are also allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over U.S. Application No. 2002/0135728 (Tatsuta et al) in light of WO 02/096577.

The Examiner asserts that WO 02/096577 teaches the use of recyclable glass substrate for reducing processing cost as well as reducing environmental load.

Applicants contend that claim 1 is allowable in view of the prior art, and therefore claims 6-10, which depend therefrom, are also allowable.

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, Applicants believe the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

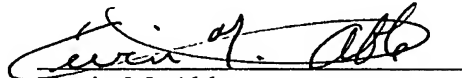
Appl. No.: 10/613,972
Reply to Office Action of: 10/17/2005

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorize the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Kevin M. Able at 607-974-2637.

DATE: 1/4/06

Respectfully submitted,



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